REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated January 2, 2004. In the Office Action, claims 1, 5, 11, and 8 were objected to because of informalities, claims 10 and 13 were rejected under 35 USC §112, and claims 1-15 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 USC §103. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 10, 11, 13, and 18 are amended. Currently pending claims 1-15 and 17-20 are believed allowable, with claims 1, 11, and 18 being independent claims.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §112:

Claims 10 and 13 were rejected under 35 USC §112 as indefinite due to the use of the terms "black list" and "black lists." By this Amendment, claim 10 is amended by substituting the term "black list" with "revoked certificate list" and claim 13 is amended by substituting the term "black lists" with "revoked certificate lists." No new matter is introduced by these amendments.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §103:

Claims 1-2, 4, 6-8 and 10-15 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 USC §103 as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,442,689 to Kocher (herein "Kocher") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,442,689 to Ng (herein "Ng").

Claim 1 of the present Application is amended to recite, in part, "multiple CRL retrieval agents configured to periodically retrieve CRLs at time intervals from different CAs using a plurality of CRL retrieval agents." No new mattered is introduced by this amendement and support for this limitation can be found at least at page 16, lines 5-13 of the Application. It is respectfully submitted that the cited art does not teach or suggest using retrieval agents to periodically retrieve CRLs at time intervals. Specifically, although Kocher states that one obtains an up-to-date CRL from an appropriate CA (Kocher, col. 2, lines 25-31), it does not mention or suggest doing so by periodically retrieving CRLs at time intervals from different CAs. The other references of record are likewise silent as to this cited limitation of claim 1. Thus, for at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted

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that claim 1 is allowable over the cited art and allowance of claim 1 is requested.

Claims 2-10 are dependent on and further limit claim 1. Since claim 1 is believed allowable over the cited art, claims 2-10 are also believed allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Furthermore, claim 2 recites, in part, "a central CRL database and a plurality of CRL replication databases, said central CRL database for storing the consolidated CRLs from the multiple CRL retrieval agents, and said plurality of CRL replication databases for storing the replications of the CRLs of the central CRL database." Although the Examiner cites Kocher as disclosing the above-cited limitations of claim 2, it is respectfully submitted that Kocher makes no mention or suggestion of these limitations. For example, Kocher describes cryptographically manipulating data entries, rather than replicating a plurality of CRL databases (see Kocher, Abstract). Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that a *prima facie* obviousness rejection of claim 2 has not been established by the Examiner and the 35 USC §103 rejection of claim 2 should be withdrawn. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claim 2 is allowable over the cited art and allowance of claim 2 is requested.

Claim 11 of the present Application is amended to recite, in part, "periodically retrieving CRLs at time intervals from different CAs using a plurality of CRL retrieval agents based on the CRL distribution mechanisms of CAs." No new mattered is introduced by this amendment and support for this limitation can be found at least at page 16, lines 5-13 of the Application. It is respectfully submitted that the cited art does not teach or suggest using retrieval agents to periodically retrieve CRLs at time intervals. Specifically, although Kocher states that one obtains an up-to-date CRL from an appropriate CA (Kocher, col. 2, lines 25-31), it does not mention or suggest doing so by periodically retrieving CRLs at time intervals from different CAs. The other references of record are likewise silent as to this cited limitation of claim 11. Thus, for at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that claim 11 is allowable over the cited art and allowance of claim 11 is requested.

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Claims 12-15 and 17 are dependent on and further limit claim 11. Since claim 11 is believed allowable over the cited art, claims 12-15 and 17 are also believed allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 11.

Furthermore, claim 12 recites, in part, "a central CRL database and a plurality of CRL replication database, said central CRL database for storing the consolidated CRLs from multiple CRL retrieval agents and said plurality of CRL replication database for storing the replications of the CRLs of the central database." Although the Examiner cites Kocher as disclosing the above-cited limitations of claim 12, it is respectfully submitted that Kocher makes no mention or suggestion of these limitations. For example, Kocher describes cryptographically manipulating data entries, rather than replicating a plurality of CRL databases (see Kocher, Abstract). Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that a *prima facie* obviousness rejection of claim 12 has not been established by the Examiner and the 35 USC §103 rejection of claim 12 should be withdrawn. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claim 12 is allowable over the cited art and allowance of claim 12 is requested.

Claim 18 of the present Application is amended to recite, in part, "retrieval agents configured to periodically retrieve CRLs at time intervals from the different CAs and to consolidate the CRLs from multiple CAs." No new mattered is introduced by this amendement and support for this limitation can be found at least at page 16, lines 5-13 of the Application. It is respectfully submitted that the cited art does not teach or suggest using retrieval agents to periodically retrieve CRLs at time intervals. Specifically, although Kocher states that one obtains an up-to-date CRL from an appropriate CA (Kocher, col. 2, lines 25-31), it does not mention or suggest doing so by periodically retrieving CRLs at time intervals from multiple CAs. The other references of record are likewise silent as to this cited limitation of claim 18. Thus, for at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that claim 18 is allowable over the cited art and allowance of claim 18 is requested.

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Claims 19-21 are dependent on and further limit claim 18. Since claim 18 is believed allowable over the cited art, claims 19-21 are also believed allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 18.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS:

Claims 1, 5, 11, and 8 were objected to for failing to spell out the terms "API" and "RFC1424." By this Amendment, appropriate corrections to the claims are made.
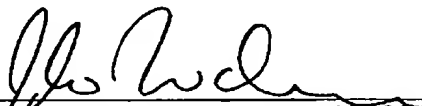
CONCLUSION

In view of the forgoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this case is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any points remain at issue that the Examiner feels could best be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to contact the attorney below.

This Amendment is being filed with a petition for a one-month extension of time. Please charge Deposit Account 50-0510 $110 for the one-month petition fee. No additional fee is believed due with this Amendment, however, should a fee be required please charge Deposit Account 50-0510. Should any additional extensions of time be required, please consider this a petition thereof and charge Deposit Account 50-0510 the required fee.

Respectfully submitted,

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